United Nations A/57/443

General Assembly

Distr.: General
30 September 2002

Original: English

Fifty-seventh session
Agenda item 107
Elimination of racism and racial discrimination

Comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance

Note by the Secretary-General*

The Secretary-General has the honour to transmit to the General Assembly the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 56/266.

* The submission of the report was delayed to allow the widest possible collection of information.

02-61423 (E) 211002

Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance

Summary

In accordance with General Assembly resolution 56/266 of 27 March 2002, the present report contains information on the activities of States, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), human rights treaty bodies, special procedures and other mechanisms of the Commission on Human Rights, United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, international and regional organizations, national human rights institutions, non-governmental organizations and youth groups to implement the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action (see A/CONF.189/12, chap. I).

I. Introduction

1. By resolution 56/266, the General Assembly requested the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to report to it annually in connection with the implementation of and follow-up to the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance.

2. Pursuant to resolution 56/266, the present report takes into account information and views provided by States, relevant human rights treaty bodies, special procedures and other mechanisms of the Commission on Human Rights, national human rights institutions and international, regional and non-governmental organizations.

3. In November 2001 and May/June 2002, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) sent notes verbales requesting information on possible follow-up activities to the World Conference. The responses received are summarized below.

II. Implementation and follow-up by States

4. Albania reported that the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action had been circulated to governmental institutions, which have taken relevant measures to implement them in accordance with their competencies. The Government drew attention to several constitutional and legislative provisions which guarantee the equality of all citizens before the law, prohibit discrimination on various grounds, ban violence against places of worship and prohibit incitement to racial hatred. The Government stated that it was drafting a national strategy for the improvement of the living conditions of the Roma community, aimed at improving the economic conditions of the Roma community as well as eliminating the discrimination that it faces. The Government plans to adopt this strategy by the end of 2002.

5. Argentina indicated its intention to develop a national action plan in the memorandum of understanding signed by the Government and the High Commissioner for Human Rights during her visit to Argentina in October 2001. On 10 December 2001, the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights, in cooperation with the United Nations Resident Coordinator in Argentina, organized a meeting on proposals for the elaboration of a national plan to combat racial discrimination, which was attended by representatives of the Government and relevant commissions of the Congress, academics and representatives of non-governmental organizations. A follow-up meeting will be held in December 2002.

6. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has established a working group, which also includes representatives from the vice-presidency of the Interministerial Council, the Human Rights Secretariat of the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights, the National Institute against Discrimination and the United Nations Resident Coordinator in Argentina to define the framework for elaborating the national plan. The working group has identified five areas for action: (a) structure of the national plan; (b) participation of the provinces and municipalities in the elaboration of the national plan; (c) chronology of activities; (d) administrative acts for the creation of the coordinating mechanism for the national plan of action; and (e) programme of cooperation with the United Nations Development Programme to support the development of the national plan. A thematic analysis of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action found that 35 sectors of the national public administration would be involved in the implementation of the text. Each sector was provided with a clear indication of the specific provisions falling under its responsibility.

7. Colombia indicated that it plans to continue its national efforts to combat racial discrimination. Colombia ratified Law 649 of 2001, which implements article 176 of the Political Constitution of Colombia. It concerns the composition of the Chamber of Representatives and designates seats to identified minority groups, including blacks and indigenous representatives. The Government has also prepared a policy paper on the Afro-Colombian population. Several sectors of Colombian society which deal with racial and ethnic matters will participate in the development of a national action plan, as envisaged in the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action.

8. Croatia reported that it had undertaken activities to amend its Constitutional Law on Human Rights and National Minorities. The Law on the Official Use of Languages and Scripts of the Minorities in Croatia, the Law on the Education in Minority Languages and the Reconstruction Act have been amended and harmonized with European legislation standards. A Committee of Independent Experts to review national legislation, detect discriminatory laws and propose to the national Parliament necessary changes to those laws has been established. Croatia intends to make the declaration under article 14 of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination in 2002. The Ministry of the Interior is undertaking measures to ensure better security conditions for persons and their property, as well as their human rights, regardless of national, religious or any other affiliation. There is a regular training programme in place to educate police forces about racial discrimination and intolerance.

9. A permanent national commission will be set up in the near future and will be entrusted with the task of combating discrimination, racism and other forms of intolerance. The commission will comprise Government's Office for Human Rights,

relevant ministries, non-governmental organizations and the media. The Office for Human Rights is drafting a national plan of action which will be proposed to the Government after consultation with the national commission. The Office has also translated all major human rights instruments on combating racism into Croatian and has issued a booklet for general purposes.

10. Cuba reported that the population census of 2002 will take into account current statistical indicators to give a better understanding of the situation and composition of Cuban society. Cuba stated that it assigns special importance to the rapid implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, in particular actions intended to alleviate the suffering of descendants of slavery, indigenous groups and victims of colonialism.

11. Cyprus reported that it has prepared a national report on the implementation of the conclusions of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action.

12. The Czech Republic stated that the Standing Inter-Ministerial Commission to Combat Extremism, Racism and Xenophobia was established in November 2001 and is tasked with reviewing the fulfilment of current initiatives. The Ministry for Foreign Affairs will incorporate the commitments arising from the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action into the document prepared by the Standing Committee. The Czech Republic also plans to establish a national plan of action, with the involvement of all relevant ministries, authorities, organs and non-governmental organizations. The Government will continue to work with the non-governmental organization, Human Being in Need, in its anti-racism campaign in the Czech media.

13. Germany reported on a number of national measures adopted to combat right-wing extremism, racism and xenophobia. It stated that it supports the implementation of the package of measures flowing from article 13 of the Treaty of Amsterdam for combating discrimination, racism and xenophobia. It is also drafting an anti-discrimination act under civil law and under labour law. The Government had made the declaration called for under article 14 of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination prior to the World Conference.

14. Liechtenstein reported that, in June 2002, it established a working group for the implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action. A first meeting of the group was aimed at elaborating the first phase of the Government's national action plan. Human rights education will be a central pillar of the plan and, as a first step, will be integrated into the police training programme in September 2002. The national action plan will also draw on the recommendations made by the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination in March 2002 and the forthcoming report of the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance.

15. The Government of Mexico reported that it published, in August 2001, a reform to the Constitution that prohibits any discrimination motivated by several enumerated grounds, including national and ethnic origin and gender. To advance this reform, the Citizen's Commission to Combat Racial Discrimination had been established and was working on a draft law with the aim of preventing all forms of discrimination. At the beginning of 2002, Mexico had made the declaration called for under article 14 of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination. Mexico also indicated that it had recently completed a

progress report on equality of opportunity in the educational and social spheres, with particular reference to vulnerable groups, such as indigenous peoples and women.

16. Morocco reported that it had canvassed its national institutions for information about follow-up to the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action. A colloquium on the World Conference will be organized in order to inform and sensitize the general public about the importance and universal application of the documents adopted at Durban.

17. The Netherlands reported that a brochure concerning measures and infrastructure to counter racism and racial discrimination had been updated and published.

18. Norway referred to its sixteenth periodic report to the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, which reflected a number of initiatives (both legislative and programmatic) in sectors such as education and teaching, culture, information, administration of justice, and racially motivated violence. Norway stated that it was also working on a plan of action against racism for the period 2002-2006.

19. Romania indicated that it was planning a number of legislative and institutional actions, including ratification of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages, and the application and development of governmental ordinances on anti-discrimination and on refugees, adopted in 2000. The project to establish a national council against discrimination was in place and the Government hoped to approve it in the coming weeks. Romania would continue to pay particular attention to its comprehensive, long-term (2001-2010) programme to improve the situation of Roma. It also plans to make the declaration called for under article 14 of International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination. It indicated that a number of meetings and seminars would be held in Romania by non-governmental organizations.

20. The Russian Federation reported that, prior to the World Conference, the Government had approved a comprehensive federal programme, entitled "The formation of the establishment of a consciousness of tolerance and prevention of extremism in the Russian Federation (2001-2005)". The programme had been prepared using, among other things, the results of preparatory work for the Conference, and the documents adopted at Durban would be taken into consideration during its implementation.

21. Switzerland reported that the follow-up to the World Conference would be undertaken in three progressive stages. Stage 1 (2002) would include the publication of the Declaration and Programme of Action in German and French (accompanied by relevant explanatory texts) so as to disseminate the results of the Conference. During stage 2 (2002-2003), federal departments, offices, cantons and concerned non-governmental organizations would be involved in follow-up initiatives through a participatory process that would enable them to define their priorities and perspectives and assist in the establishing follow-up objectives. In stage 3 (2003-2005 and ensuing years), four or five thematic activities (identified in the preceding years) would be implemented.

III. Implementation and follow-up by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

22. The General Assembly, in its resolution 56/266, supported the decision of the High Commissioner for Human Rights to establish an Anti-Discrimination Unit to combat racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, and to promote equality and non-discrimination.

23. The following actions have been taken by the Anti-Discrimination Unit in follow-up to the World Conference:

(a) Organization of the first stocktaking meeting after the World Conference on 10 December 2001, International Human Rights Day, in which States, United Nations bodies and non-governmental organizations participated;

(b) Organization on 21 March 2002 of a panel discussion of the theme "Young people against racism: the road from Durban", in commemoration of the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination;

(c) Organization of two regional seminars of experts, one for Latin America and the Caribbean (Mexico City, 1-3 July 2002) and one for Africa (Nairobi, 16-18 September 2002) on the theme "Implementation of the Durban Programme of Action: an exchange of ideas on how to move forward";

(d) Publication, in cooperation with the Department of Public Information, of a glossy version of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action in March 2002;

(e) Participation in and delivery of presentations at a number of meetings hosted by various organizations in follow-up to the World Conference;

(f) Submission of reports on the implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action to the General Assembly (A/56/481 and A/57/83-E/2002/72), the Commission on Human Rights at its fifty-eighth session (E/CN.4/2002/21) and the Economic and Social Council (A/57/83-E/2002/72);

(g) Mainstreaming of the anti-discrimination agenda within OHCHR and the United Nations system, including through the organization of periodic inter-agency consultations on follow-up to the World Conference;

(h) Distribution of information to non-governmental organizations on the activities of the Anti-Discrimination Unit and OHCHR to combat racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance;

(i) Organization of meetings with representatives of non-governmental organizations on 5 December 2001 and 22 March 2002 to share information about the programmes and activities that they have carried out or plan to carry out to implement the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action;

(j) Organization, together with the OHCHR Africa team, of a subregional African youth consultation in follow-up to the World Conference in Ghana in August 2002;

(k) Promotion of a global youth network against racism, and stimulation of the development of innovative practices against racism at the local, national and regional levels;

(l) Organization with other OHCHR colleagues of a parallel event on 10 April 2002, during the fifty-eighth session of the Commission on Human Rights, on the theme "Combating racism and promoting women's rights".

24. The Anti-Discrimination Unit has undertaken or plans to undertake the following additional activities during 2002:

(a) Exploration of the modalities for establishing a database on best practice and national legislation to combat racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance;

(b) Organization of a seminar on education under the Programme of Action for the Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination;

(c) Production of a special publication on post-Durban activities for a broad public, provided sufficient funds are raised for this purpose;

(d) Promotion of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and the work of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination in all of the activities that it undertakes. OHCHR will strongly endeavour to achieve the goal of universal ratification of the Convention by 2005, as stipulated in the Programme of Action adopted at Durban;

(e) Continuation of its active cooperation with United Nations bodies, specialized agencies and other international organizations, as well as non-governmental organizations and youth groups.

IV. Implementation and follow-up by human rights treaty bodies, special procedures and other mechanisms of the Commission on Human Rights

A. Follow-up by treaty bodies

25. The Committee on the Rights of the Child, at its twenty-eighth session held from 24 September to 12 October 2001, adopted a standard paragraph on the follow-up to the World Conference that will be systematically included in its concluding observations. The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination at its sixtieth session, held from 4 to 22 March 2002, also adopted a standard paragraph that will be included systematically in its concluding observations, and, on 19 March 2002, adopted general recommendation XXVIII on follow-up to the Conference.

26. Proposals on the follow-up to the Conference were considered by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women at its twenty-seventh session, held in June 2002. The Committee also considered draft reporting guidelines, which would include a request to States parties to report on steps taken to implement the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action. The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Human Rights Committee have both taken note of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action and have indicated that they will take them into account in their activities, when appropriate.

B. Follow-up by special rapporteurs

27. The former Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance routinely addressed the issue of the World Conference and its follow-up in his country visits and reports to the Commission on Human Rights and the General Assembly. It is expected that the current Special Rapporteur will be involved in the Working Group of Experts on people of African descent and the Intergovernmental Working Group on the follow-up to the Conference.

28. The Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous people included a section on the outcome of the World Conference in respect of indigenous people in his report to the Commission on Human Rights (E/CN.4/2002/97). The Special Rapporteur on the adverse effects of the illicit movement and dumping of toxic and dangerous products and wastes on the enjoyment of human rights made specific reference to the question of racism and the environment in her statement to the Commission at its fifty-eighth session.

29. The Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants considers the follow-up to the World Conference to be a priority of her mandate. She has raised the question of follow-up in her statements at various conferences held since the Conference at Durban, as well as in her report to the Commission on Human Rights (E/CN.4/2002/94). The follow-up to the World Conference was also considered at a regional conference on migration, held at Nairobi in May 2002, and will be the focus of a regional conference for the Americas that is to be held at Santiago in November 2002.

30. The Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression has focused specifically on the World Conference with regard to "hate speech" and has addressed the issue of the use of the Internet (E/CN.4/2002/75).

31. The Special Rapporteur on adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living devoted a section to discrimination, segregation and the right to adequate housing in his report to the Commission (E/CN.4/2002/59, sect. II.A).

32. The Special Rapporteur on the right to education has made discrimination based on race, colour or national or ethnic origin a core issue in the fulfilment of her tasks. Issues such as racial exclusion and mother-tongue education, have a prominent place in her reports submitted to the Commission (e.g., see E/CN.4/2002/60/Add.1 and Add.2).

33. At its fifty-eighth session, the Commission adopted resolution 2002/31 of 22 April 2002, in which it decided to appoint a Special Rapporteur whose mandate would focus on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health. The Special Rapporteur was invited, in fulfilling that mandate, to take into account the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action.

C. Trust funds

34. The boards of the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture, the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery, the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Populations and the Advisory Group of the United Nations Voluntary Fund for the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People have taken into consideration and discussed the implications of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action at their sessions held in 2002. In this respect, the Board of the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery underlined that, when adopting recommendations for grants it has always taken into consideration, among other violations of human rights, that victims of contemporary forms of slavery are often victims of racial discrimination.

V. Implementation and follow-up by United Nations bodies, specialized agencies, and international and regional organizations

35. United Nations bodies and specialized agencies have indicated to OHCHR that they have familiarized their members and constituencies with the outcome of the World Conference through internal meetings and information dissemination.

36. Some organizations, such as the regional commissions for Western Asia and Europe, intend to mainstream the outcome of the Conference into existing projects. The United Nations Development Group has elaborated the new guidelines for the common country assessment and United Nations Development Assistance Framework processes, which encourage United Nations country teams to address the needs of vulnerable and marginalized groups through data collection, assessment, analysis and programming. The Development Group is currently developing the human rights training module, which includes information on United Nations human rights mechanisms, such as International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination. Other organizations have ongoing programmes that respond to the requests made at Durban, for example, the ongoing activities of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme related to the realization of human rights in the context of human settlements, or the poverty reduction strategy papers of the International Monetary Fund.

37. The United Nations Development Programme intends to pursue its actions in favour of indigenous communities within the framework of the United Nations International Decade of the World's Indigenous Peoples (1995-2004).

38. The United Nations Children's Fund will focus on developing strategies to reach children who are excluded from learning, with the aim of making good-quality basic education accessible and achievable. These strategies include, among others, social mobilization, school-community mechanisms, and flexible, non-formal approaches, such as multi-grade classes. Special attention will continue to be paid to the provision of bilingual and intercultural education to children from indigenous groups.

39. In its programming, the United Nations Population Fund highlights the linkages between racial discrimination and gender. In the system of data collection

that it is developing, the Fund will also integrate race and ethnicity as cross-cutting issues.

40. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees encouraged its field offices to raise awareness of racism and xenophobia against refugees, asylum-seekers and returnees and to include relevant information in their field reports. The Office is also conducting awareness-campaigns on tolerance in different States.

41. The Executive Board of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) adopted the UNESCO strategy for follow-up to the World Conference in May 2002 (see document 164 EX/16). UNESCO established a section for combating racism and discrimination within its Social and Human Sciences Sector. Studies on xenophobia, new forms of discrimination and exclusion arising from globalization and scientific and technological progress have been recently initiated. UNESCO will organize a series of regional consultations with the objective of developing a global strategy for the implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action. The research programme on the slave route continues to analyse the issue of reparations in relation to the slave trade and slavery, to explore the relationship between slavery and racism, and to study the origins and consequences of slavery. Interdisciplinary projects on these questions have recently been started at the subregional and regional levels.

42. The Governing Body of the International Labour Organization (ILO) discussed the follow-up to the World Conference at its sessions in November 2001 and March 2002. As a result, ILO will contribute to the follow-up to the Conference through a number of activities: (a) continued research, data collection and technical assistance in combating racism against indigenous and tribal peoples and migrant workers; (b) the issuance of publications on the effectiveness of anti-discrimination legislation and training with a focus on migrant and ethnic minority workers, of a practitioner's handbook on discrimination against migrants, and of a compendium of anti-discrimination measures; (c) workers education on combating discrimination in all of its forms, including racism and multiple discrimination; (d) continued support for the Global Compact Initiative on Diversity and Equality; (e) management training on issues of discrimination; (f) provision of support to States in the elaboration of laws, policies, and administrative and enforcement mechanisms that address racial discrimination in the workplace.

43. The *Global Report 2003* on the elimination of discrimination in employment and occupation, to be presented to the International Labour Conference at its session in 2003, will be an important contribution by ILO to the follow-up to the World Conference. OHCHR and ILO have also jointly issued a flyer that encourages multi-stakeholder initiatives to foster equality and non-discrimination in the workplace and community.

44. The World Health Organization has several ongoing programmes to develop awareness of the impact of racism and racial discrimination on physical and mental health, including the HIV/AIDS pandemic, and access to health care. It is preparing specific projects to ensure equitable health systems for victims. In May 2002, the World Health Assembly adopted a framework global strategy that addresses the health concerns of marginalized ethnic populations. The Pan-American Health Organization has issued several publications, developed a web site on ethnicity and health, convened meetings to address health-related issues of Afro-descendants and

indigenous people, and is compiling a directory of non-governmental organizations that develop health projects with ethnic sensitivity.

45. The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) will publish a background paper, entitled "Fighting HIV/AIDS-related intolerance: exposing the links between racism, stigma and discrimination", that was developed jointly by UNAIDS, the World Health Organization and OHCHR on the occasion of the World Conference. In the biennium 2002-2003, the World AIDS Campaign will focus on HIV/AIDS-related stigma and discrimination. UNAIDS also published the background paper entitled "HIV/AIDS stigma and discrimination: a conceptual framework and basis for action", which was released at the Fourteenth International Conference on HIV/AIDS, held at Barcelona, Spain, in July 2002.

46. The European Commission is closely monitoring the incorporation of directives 2000/43 and 2000/78 into national law by 2003. An action programme (budgeted at €100 million for the period 2001-2006) supports the legislative framework of the European Union. The European Commission adopted a proposal for a framework decision to start a Union-wide assessment of penal laws on racist and xenophobic offences and to facilitate judicial cooperation among member States. The Union's Monitoring Centre on Racism and Xenophobia provides additional support by means of its research. Other initiatives of the European Union to combat racism include its education, training and youth programmes, the European Fund for Refugees, and the PHARE programme aimed at improving the lives of Roma and other minorities in the Central and Eastern European candidate countries. The European Commission also prepared a progress report on its work with indigenous peoples.

47. The secretariat of the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance adopted a programme of action in March 2002 on relations with civil society, which aims to strengthen multicultural and inter-religious dialogue. The planned activities are: organization of information sessions in member States; enhanced cooperation with non-governmental organizations; development of a media strategy; information activities directed towards the political bodies of the Council of Europe; and close contact with the youth sector.

48. The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) has initiated projects in the following areas: freedom of the media (aimed at abolishing and preventing hate speech); freedom of religion or belief; tolerance and non-discrimination (through the organization of a number of workshops in the southern Caucasus); and promoting the full integration of the Roma and Sinti communities into the societies in which they live through the development of an OSCE action plan.

49. The League of Arab States organized a high-level meeting on the dialogue among civilizations, in November 2001. The Organization of the Islamic Conference promoted the spirit of dialogue among civilizations at the forum convened in collaboration with the European Union at Istanbul in February 2002. The Organization of American States is discussing the preparation of an inter-American convention against racism and all forms of discrimination and intolerance. The Council of Europe convened an ad hoc meeting of experts to exchange views on the development of national plans of action, which was held at Strasbourg, France, in February 2002.

50. The Inter-Parliamentary Union indicated that it plans to set up a database on parliamentary committees that cover issues relating to racism in order to contribute to the creation of parliamentary networks and assist in mobilizing the widest parliamentary support.

VI. Implementation and follow-up by national human rights institutions

51. At the Sixth International Conference of National Human Rights Institutions, held at Copenhagen and Lund, Sweden, from 10 to 13 April 2002, national institutions adopted the Copenhagen Declaration in which they reaffirmed their commitment to the implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action and the consensus statement of national institutions submitted to the World Conference. The Copenhagen Declaration also refers to information on best practice in the areas of remedies, monitoring, advocacy and education.

52. In addition, the following regional and national meetings have been held with a view to identifying practical ways of implementing the provisions agreed upon at Durban:

(a) An initiative of the Danish Centre for Human Rights in collaboration with Latin American human rights institutions (Copenhagen, 23-25 September 2001);

(b) The Sixth Annual Meeting of the Asia-Pacific Forum of National Human Rights Institutions (Colombo, 24-27 September 2001);

(c) The Second Meeting of the Euro-Mediterranean National Institutions (Athens, 1-3 November 2001), which focused on immigration and racism;

(d) The first General Assembly of the Network of National Institutions of the Americas for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, which focused on preventing discrimination against indigenous peoples in the Caribbean (Kingston, 9 March 2002);

(e) A national conference on the theme "Beyond tolerance", convened by the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission of Australia (12-13 March 2002);

(f) In the Netherlands, the National Bureau on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and Equality organized two follow-up meetings to provide input to a national action plan (11 October 2001 and 27 March 2002);

(g) A meeting of Asia-Pacific national human rights institutions on the theme "Racism, the media and human rights education", convened in cooperation with the Asia-Pacific Forum of National Human Rights Institutions (Sydney, Australia, 5-7 July 2002);

(h) The Fourth Regional Meeting of African National Human Rights Institutions (Kampala, 14-16 August 2002);

(i) A meeting on the theme "Reconstructing race relations: follow-up to the World Conference", organized by the Human Rights Commission of Fiji (Suva, August 2002).

53. A large number of national institutions have also begun to implement activities relating to the World Conference at the national level. Activities relate to the review of national legislation to see how it meets international norms regarding discrimination; the development of national action plans; the convening of national and local-level consultations on racism; the strengthening of networks; the diffusion of information on racial issues and human rights education; the addressing of racism on the Internet; the examination of slavery and other issues related to the World Conference. Many national institutions used Human Rights Day and the International Day on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination to launch their Conference-related initiatives.

54. OHCHR and the Danish Centre for Human Rights have established a web site on national institutions (www.nhri.net), which has a section on racism and discrimination.

VII. Implementation and follow-up by non-governmental organizations

55. The Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations in Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council (CONGO) reports that each activity it organizes in the coming year will have an anti-racism component. The International Confederation of Free Trade Unions has endorsed a plan of action, "Trade unions say no to racism and xenophobia", and has strongly urged all national affiliates and regional organizations to implement it without delay. Soroptimist International has asked its national sections to research the status of implementation of United Nations instruments dealing with racial equality and discrimination, to review annually the progress made, and to follow this up with advocacy and action. Penal Reform International continues to coordinate the International Criminal Justice Coalition which was established in connection with the World Conference; to discuss a follow-up strategy; to draft a follow-up plan of action; and to publish the results of a number of research projects carried out within the framework of the programme of the organization conducted in connection with the World Conference.

56. Human Rights Internet and CONGO reported that they are continuing to develop their anti-racism web sites and remain committed to finding ways of using the Internet to combat racism and xenophobia.

57. A number of non-governmental organizations are engaged in the development of national plans of action. The European Network against Racism and United for Inter-Cultural Action in Eastern and Central Europe are working to ensure that States adopt and implement national action plans against racism. The Canadian Race Relations Foundation reports that it plans follow-up initiatives which will focus on assisting the Government to adopt a plan of action. The South African NGO Coalition (SANGOCO) reported that, together with the governmental and other social actors, it is participating in the process of establishing a national action plan to combat racism in South Africa. The Runnymede Trust reported that it is working with the Home Office of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland on the elaboration of a national action plan in accordance with the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action. In Switzerland, the Forum against Racism is participating in the preparation of a study on issues in the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action that are particularly relevant to Switzerland. In 2003, there

will be a number of hearings with various partners in civil society, followed by proposals for a national action plan. Forum Menschenrechte participates in the round-table meeting of ministries and non-governmental organizations in charge of drafting a plan of action for Germany. In addition, it participates in the drafting of a national anti-discrimination law, and assisted in the drafting of a code of conduct for all political parties for the elections held in September 2002.

58. Many groups are concerned about the intersection of racism with gender, poverty, and disability. The Centre for Women's Global Leadership reports that it will focus its training on the intersection of racism, sexism and other oppressions, exploring the links among the various kinds of oppression that women face. International Women's Rights Action Watch Asia Pacific has participated in dialogues with the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and has developed a set of guidelines for non-governmental organizations which submit information on the status of women from racial and ethnic minorities to the latter Committee. The Asia-Pacific Forum on Women Law and Development is publishing reports on the impact on women in the region of intersectional discrimination on the basis of gender, class, race, caste and other factors. The Bulgarian Gender Research Foundation was invited by the National Council for Ethnic and Demographic Issues to participate in the working group for the elaboration of the draft act for the prevention of discrimination in Bulgaria. The Foundation is currently preparing an educational programme on tolerance, with a specific focus on the interface of gender and ethnicity.

59. A number of non-governmental organizations are engaged in the field of education. Susila Dharma International holds workshops for professors, teachers, administrators and students on diversity and inclusion in post-secondary educational institutions in Canada. In Italy, the Centre for Human Evolution Studies and the Ius Primi Viri International Association have organized a workshop on the theme "Racism, xenophobia and intolerance: plurality of cultures and universality of human rights", in cooperation with the Ministry of Education. The Roy Wilkins Institute for Social Justice at the University of Minnesota, United States of America, has held specific educational programmes for civil society and immigration lawyers with a view to preventing discrimination, and has organized a public education campaign that includes dissemination of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action. The Canadian Council of Churches facilitated the formation of a Canadian ecumenical anti-racism network for the convening of education on anti-racism and ecumenical action on racism. The programme of action of the network includes the convening of an anti-racism conference in the second quarter of 2003.

60. Non-governmental organizations were active in sensitizing the public to the achievements of the World Conference and in issuing statements on specific anti-discrimination issues. Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch made a joint public statement condemning anti-Semitism and Islamophobia in Western Europe. In March 2002, the American Jewish Committee produced a report entitled "Anti-Semitism, Holocaust memory, property restitution and related issues confronting the Jewish community of Central and Eastern Europe". On a broader scale, the American Jewish Committee has provided advice on legislation that calls for increased action to address anti-Semitism and discrimination in Europe and throughout the world. The Fédération internationale des ligues des droits de l'homme organized jointly with the French league of human rights and journals,

several public meetings in Paris between members of civil society from Israel and Palestine (researchers, human rights activists and artists).

61. In the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, the Association for Democratic Initiatives held a workshop on raising awareness and focusing on the planning of joint activities by non-governmental organizations for the implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action. Durban 2001 Japan, a coalition of individuals based in Japan, organized a conference that reported on the outcome of the World Conference. The English International Association of Lund, together with Human Rights for Africa, actively participated in the Stockholm Symposium on Structural Discrimination, held in December 2001. The Centre for the Development of Democracy and Human Rights, on behalf of the Russian Network against Racism, states that it intends to use the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action to promote tolerance and human rights. In Switzerland, Migrants Rights International organized a planning activity for non-governmental organizations on the follow-up to the World Conference. The outcome of the process will be a consolidated non-governmental programme of action on the follow-up to the Conference.

62. The African Society of International and Comparative Law and other non-governmental organizations met at Pretoria, South Africa, in May 2002, and adopted a resolution in support of the final documents of the World Conference and resolved to establish an African non-governmental mechanism to follow up their implementation. In addition, the Society and its partners organized a one-day briefing on the theme "The World Conference and beyond: an African perspective", which was held at Geneva within the framework of the fifty-eighth session of the Commission on Human Rights.

63. A number of other non-governmental organizations organized parallel events on various themes during the fifty-eighth session of the Commission, including the following:

(a) CONGO, "The struggle against racism: responsibility of the social actors — promoting within civil society the follow-up to Durban and supporting the programme of the Anti-Discrimination Unit of OHCHR";

(b) Interfaith International, "Social actors in combating racism";

(c) Amnesty International, "Racism in Europe";

(d) World Federation of Democratic Youth, "The World Conference and its achievements: an overview";

(e) Soka Gakkai International, together with the International Organization for the Right to Education and Freedom of Education, the International Movement against All Forms of Discrimination and Racism and the Permanent Mission of Costa Rica to the United Nations, "Human rights education to combat racism/discrimination";

(f) International Institute for Non-Aligned Studies, "NGO briefing and consultation after the World Conference".

64. The NGO Committee against Racism held a workshop on racism at the World Civil Society Forum, held at Geneva in July 2002.

65. The Congress against Racism has been mandated by the African and African descendants non-governmental caucus to coordinate and facilitate the organization of a meeting for Africans and African descendants in Barbados in October 2002. The Ichirouganaim Council for the Advancement of Rastafari has reported that it is supporting the convening of the meeting, together with other non-governmental organizations.

66. The International Alliance against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance reported that it is planning to hold a conference on indigenous peoples' issues in August 2003, a conference on slavery, reparation and compensation in December 2003 and a conference on effective ongoing programmes to combat racism in November 2004.

VIII. Implementation and follow-up by young people

67. At the International Youth Summit, organized by South African and international youth organizations immediately prior to the World Conference, young people decided to establish a global youth network. The goals of the network are to strengthen youth action against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and all forms of intolerance, to exchange and disseminate information on best practice in combating racism, to coordinate advocacy efforts and to monitor the implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action.

68. Various regional, subregional and national youth networks are active within the global youth network. In Africa, the youth network has identified the need for substantive training on human rights for youth representatives. At the national level, the Zimbabwe Youth Agenda, a coalition of youth organizations, convened a strategic workshop at Harare in January 2002. The Cameroon Youth and Students Forum for Peace organized a youth week on the role of young people in political evaluation, peace-building and conflict resolution.

69. In the Asian and Pacific region, the youth network has identified one focal point in each country, and convened a regional human rights workshop at Bangkok from 28 July to 1 August 2002 for focal points from 27 countries. The goals of the workshop were to train young people on human rights and advocacy strategies and to develop a regional youth plan of action against racism, to be presented to heads of State.

70. The Cordillera Peoples Alliance Youth Center convened an international indigenous youth conference at Baguio City, the Philippines, in April 2002, for indigenous youth to reflect on their rights and to discuss the follow-up to the World Conference.

71. In the Americas, the youth caucus involved in the Conference process elected a coordinating committee. The international women's human rights organization Madre launched, in the name of the Americas regional youth network, a compilation of reference material on children, adolescents and young people, assembled during the preparatory process for the Conference. The youth network active in Peru organized a Latin American and Caribbean regional seminar on the theme "Young people and politics: a youth perspective" in July 2002. The network also held a national youth consultation on racism and launched a national action plan. Also in Peru, the Afro-Peruvian youth organization Lundu is implementing a project entitled

"Black women: myths and legends, a search for their identity", in order to increase awareness of the life of Afro populations in the Americas. In Uruguay, the youth chapter of Mundo Afro is spearheading workshops on human rights and the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, promoting the Afro-Uruguayan culture and convening a national youth conference. In Argentina, the National Association of Indigenous Youth is planning a seminar on the rights of indigenous peoples, in collaboration with the University of Buenos Aires. Nicaraguan youth representatives were successful in lobbying the National Human Rights Commission dealing with racial discrimination to establish a unit devoted specifically to young people. In addition, youth representatives have been involved in the elaboration of a national action plan against racism.

72. The non-governmental organization Global Kids conducts on a regular basis presentations in schools on the World Conference and dedicated its annual Youth Conference to the topic "Bringing Durban back home". The United Nations Association of Canada mobilized young people for peer education and action-oriented workshops on human rights, anti-racism and youth leadership participation through its "Youth forum against racism" project. The American Friends Service Committee youth section is actively involved in local projects in the United States of America, such as the sexual diversity programme and youth leadership programmes. The message of tolerance and respect is spread through such means as television shows, photo exhibits, radio shows and educational videos, including a video documentary, "Road to Durban".

73. The European Commission convened a youth conference on tolerance and democracy at Berlin in October 2001, and the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe focused on the role of African youth in development and conflict prevention at the Lisbon Forum, held in November 2001.

74. The follow-up to the World Conference was the main theme of the youth conference convened by Minorities of Europe at Bucharest in December 2001, where members of the Roma youth caucus evaluated their participation in the World Conference and reflected on their role as youth leaders in the development of their communities. Minorities of Europe also developed a CD-ROM on the World Conference and a photo exhibition on the participation of young people in the Conference. Further, the organization invited minority youth from around the continent to a European youth conference that it hosted in Leicester, United Kingdom, in July 2002.

75. The International Caucasus Foundation on Minority Issues held a follow-up seminar under the title "Intolerance in the Caucasus: follow-up to the Durban Conference" for youth representatives from Georgia, Azerbaijan and Armenia at Baku, in the third quarter of 2002.

76. The youth division of the Bulgarian Gender and Research Foundation has developed a comprehensive publication of the documents of the World Conference for young people, which was launched in July 2002. The Italian non-governmental organization Ufficio Ricerca Indigeni Habitat Interdipendenza has produced a video on the participation of non-governmental organizations and young people in the Conference, which was distributed to 100 local Italian television networks.

77. The World Civil Society Youth Forum and the Fortieth Graduate Study Programme of the United Nations, two youth events held at Geneva in July 2002, placed the themes of racial discrimination and dialogue among civilizations high on their agendas.

78. The non-governmental organization UNITED will bring together youth activists from all over Europe at a conference entitled "Facing the challenge: a youth strategy against racism and related forms of discrimination in Europe", to be held in Romania from 9 to 13 October 2002.

IX. Conclusions

79. As indicated in the present report, States, human rights treaty bodies, special procedures and other mechanisms of the Commission on Human Rights, United Nations bodies, specialized agencies, national human rights institutions, international, regional and non-governmental organizations are at various stages of implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action. The significant number of responses indicating follow-up to the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance is to be viewed very positively. OHCHR will continue its efforts to encourage States and others to implement the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, including through the adoption of national plans of action, as well as its public information and awareness-raising activities to combat racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance.

United Nations A/57/444

General Assembly

Distr.: General
8 October 2002

Original: English

Fifty-seventh session
Agenda items 21 (a) and (c), 36, 41 (a), 42, 43, 44, 52, 79, 84, 86 (a) and (d), 87 (a) and (f), 88, 89, 91, 92, 93, 94, 96, 107 (b), 111, 112, 114, 116, 117 and 126

Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance of the United Nations, including special economic assistance: strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations; assistance to the Palestinian people

The situation in the Middle East

Final review and appraisal of the implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s: final review and appraisal of the implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s

Follow-up to the outcome of the twenty-sixth special session: implementation of the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS

Follow-up to the outcome of the special session on children

Follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit

Strengthening of the United Nations system

Questions relating to information

Macroeconomic policy questions

Sustainable development and international economic cooperation: implementation of the Declaration on International Economic Cooperation, in particular the Revitalization of Economic Growth and Development of the Developing Countries, and implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade; high-level dialogue on strengthening international economic cooperation for development through partnership

02-62540 (E) 161002

Environment and sustainable development: implementation of Agenda 21 and the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21; further implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States

Operational activities for development

Implementation of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006)

Permanent sovereignty of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including Jerusalem, and of the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan over their natural resources

Integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields

High-level international intergovernmental consideration of financing for development

Globalization and interdependence

Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries

Elimination of racism and racial discrimination: comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action

Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations

Programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003

Improving the financial situation of the United Nations

Pattern of conferences

Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations

Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations

Letter dated 23 September 2002 from the Permanent Representative of Venezuela to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the Ministerial Declaration adopted on the occasion of the Twenty-sixth Meeting of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Group of 77, held at United Nations Headquarters in New York on 19 September 2002 (see annex).

On behalf of the Group of 77, I would highly appreciate it if you could arrange for the present letter and its annex to be circulated as a document of the fifty-seventh session of the General Assembly, under agenda items 21 (a) and (c), 36, 41 (a), 42, 43, 44, 52, 79, 84, 86 (a) and (d), 87 (a) and (f), 88, 89, 91, 92, 93, 94, 96, 107 (b), 111, 112, 114, 116, 117 and 126.

(*Signed*) Milos **Alcalay**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of
Venezuela to the United Nations
Chairman of the Group of 77

Annex to the letter dated 23 September 2002 from the Permanent Representative of Venezuela to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

MINISTERIAL DECLARATION

We, the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Group of 77, guided by the principles and purposes of the Unit Nations Charter and by full respect for the principles of international law, convened at the Twenty-sixth Annual Meeti at the United Nations Headquarters in New York on 19 September 2002, adopted the following declaration:

1. We welcome the admission of the Republic of Palau as a full member of the Group of 77.

2. We pledge to work towards achieving the goals and objectives of the Group of 77 and China and, in this rega underscore the historic importance of the South Summit held in Havana, Cuba, from 12 to 14 April 2000. We underta to further mobilize the collective strength and solidarity of developing countries through strengthening South-So cooperation as well as enhancing the Group's negotiating capacity and its institutional effectiveness at vari international fora with the aim, inter alia, of fostering an effective North-South dialogue.

3. We reaffirm our commitment to the Millennium Declaration and call upon the international community to fu and speedily implement the provisions therein as well as those set out in major United Nations conferences and summ and their respective reviews, particularly those related to the promotion of sustained economic growth, sustainal development and poverty eradication. In this regard, we underscore the need to take concrete and immediate actions fulfil the commitments and achieve the goals contained in the Doha Ministerial Declaration, the Monterey Consensus a the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation and Declaration on Sustainable Development so as to eradicate poverty, brid the gap between developed and developing countries, advance sustainable development and promote a fully inclusive a equitable globalization.

I. Global economic situation

4. We believe that globalization and the revolution in information and communication technologies pres opportunities and challenges for developing countries. While globalization and information and communicat technologies have the potential to stimulate economic growth and, if properly managed, could deliver hig living standards to people and improve social well being, we note, however, with great concern, that the econo problems that affect most of our countries constitute the major threat to our future stability and growth. financial and economic crisis we are presently witnessing is global in its causes and its implications. Its negat impact is being felt most severely by developing economies. This points to the need to improve the internatio financial, monetary and trade systems in a democratic and transparent way thereby ensuring the gre participation of developing countries.

5. We are fully aware that the benefits and costs of globalization are unevenly distributed, with develop countries experiencing special difficulties in meeting challenges, including poverty eradication, lack of finan resources and technology, digital divide, financial crisis, exclusion and inequality within and among societies.

6. We note with grave concern that the international economic environment continues to be unfavourable for developing world. We also note with concern the widening gap between the developed and developing countries and continued slowdown and uncertainties of the global economy and its consequences for the South. We, therefore, call for equitable international economic order and for measures to ensure developing countries participate in and benefit fr globalization, in particular through their full and effective participation in the process of decision-making aimed resolving world economic problems. We further call upon the leading industrialized countries to adopt timely a appropriate macro-economic policies and measures to increase economic growth and ensure greater global stability.

also call for a renewal of political will and of the spirit of international partnership in development and for the creation an enabling international economic environment and the adoption of effective measures in order to support develop countries' efforts to achieve sustained economic growth, sustainable development and the strengthening of th democratic systems while reaffirming the leading roles of national governments in the development process of e country.

7. We emphasize that there is a need to enhance infrastructure development in developing countries, which will s sustained economic growth. For this purpose, we urge the international community to create a dedicated multilate mechanism of international financing for the development of infrastructure in developing countries.

II. Role of the United Nations

8. We reaffirm our commitment to the principles and purposes of the United Nations Charter international law as well as to the strengthening of multilateralism. We reiterate the importance of the Un Nations as the central forum for dialogue, negotiations and policy-making on issues relating to development international economic cooperation. We advocate a stronger United Nations system to effectively contribute the achievement of the development goals and objectives of developing countries.

9. We emphasize that the United Nations, the most universal Organization, must play a key role in internatio economic policy-making and global economic and development issues. We stress the need to further enhance coordination between the United Nations and the international monetary, financial and trade institutions. We a emphasize that the leading international trade, monetary and financial institutions must take into account the pol framework adopted by the United Nations and should ensure that their policies are in conformity with the developmer objectives of developing countries. We emphasize the need for trade, monetary and financial institutions to be reformed as to make them more responsive to the needs and concerns of developing countries.

10. We declare our firm resolve and commitment to strengthening the role of the United Nations in promotion of peace, security and development. In this regard, the right to development, a basic human ri should be given utmost priority.

III. Follow-up of the United Nations major conferences and summits

11. We stress the critical importance of follow-up to United Nations major conferences and summits held since 19 to ensure that the commitments, recommendations and measures agreed to at these conferences are implemented as so as possible. We note the significant achievements made by developing countries in honouring their commitmer However, we express concern that the efforts of developing countries to fully implement their commitments are hampe by the lack of provision of new and additional financial resources, transfer of technology and capacity building.

12. We welcome the outcome of the World Summit for Sustainable Development held in Johannesburg, So Africa, from 26 August to 4 September 2002, and call for its expeditious and balanced implementation. welcome the reaffirmation by the international community, through the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation the Declaration on Sustainable Development, of the importance of economic development, social developm and environmental protection as interdependent and mutually reinforcing pillars of sustainable development. emphasize that poverty eradication, changing consumption and production patterns and the protection of natural resource base remain the key requirements for the achievement of sustainable development. underscore that the implementation of sustainable development as envisioned in Agenda 21 and the outcome the Summit will require strengthened institutional mechanisms, enhanced cooperation between developed developing countries and strong political commitment by the international community. We therefore u developed countries and relevant major groups to fulfil their commitment to the full implementation of Summit outcomes and to the fulfilment of the targets and goals set.

13. We, while welcoming with great satisfaction the decision of the World Summit for Sustainable Development establish the World Solidarity Fund to contribute to the eradication of poverty and the promotion of human and soc

development in the developing countries, urge the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session to finalize the modalities for the operationalization of the Fund bearing in mind the role of Governments as well as civil society and the private sector in mobilizing resources for the Fund's programmes and activities.

14. We emphasize the need for the full implementation of the outcome of the World Food Summit: Five Years Later" held in Rome in June 2002, in the context of the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals of halving, by the year 2015, the proportion of people who suffer from hunger and in efforts to eradicate poverty.

15. We acknowledge the special needs of small island developing States in the context of sustainable development. We therefore endorse the decision to undertake a full and comprehensive review of the implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action for the sustainable development of small island developing States in 2004 in accordance with the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation.

16. We reiterate the need to address the special needs and problems of the Landlocked Developing Countries. In this context, welcome the decision by the General Assembly contained in its resolution 56/180 to convene an International Ministerial Meeting of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation in 2003 and fully support its effective preparation and organization.

17. We welcome the outcome of the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and related intolerance, held in Durban, South Africa, in September 2001 and call for the implementation of its objectives. We commend the international community for recognizing that slavery and slave trade, colonialism, foreign occupation, genocide and other forms of servitude have manifested themselves in poverty, underdevelopment, marginalization, social exclusion and economic disparities. We reaffirm that all forms of racism and xenophobia as well as foreign occupation constitute serious violations of human rights, which should be rejected through all political and legal means. We also commend the Conference for having agreed on the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) as a framework within which among others, remedial measures for redressing the legacies of these practices could be addressed and called for the formulation of similar programmes for descendants of slaves in the African Diaspora. In this regard we express our commitment to the accelerated implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, adopted by the World Conference against Racism. We also emphasize the need for the establishment of complementary international standards to strengthen and update international instruments against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance.

18. We welcome the establishment by the General Assembly of the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, land-locked developing countries and small island developing States, and call upon the international community to fully implement the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010 and the Brussels Declaration adopted by the Third United Nations Conference on Least Developed Countries on 20 May 2001.

IV. Means of implementation: role of developed countries

19. We note that developing countries continue to make strenuous efforts to mobilize domestic resources for development. We, however, underscore that such efforts need to be supplemented by external resources, which should be provided without any condition, in order to effectively address their development requirements. We express our concern at the erosion of development cooperation and underline the need to reinvigorate it in order to address the new requirements of developing countries in the context of globalization and liberalization. In this context, we note the close linkage between the prosperity of developing and developed countries and the potential of developing countries as locomotives of growth. We urge developed countries to take concrete steps to mobilize new and additional financial resources and facilitate greater flows of FDIs as committed in the outcomes of UN major conferences and summits for the realization of this potential. We also urge the implementation of paragraph 44 of the Monterey Consensus concerning the proposal to use SDR allocations for development purposes.

20. We note with concern the continued and significant decline of official development assistance (ODA), which reached a low of 0.22 per cent of GNP, representing less than one-third of 0.7 United Nations target. We further reiterate the urgent need for a substantial increase of ODA and in this regard, we strongly urge compliance with internationally agreed ODA targets and with commitments for new and additional resources. In particular, we urge the developed countries to make concrete efforts to achieve the target of 0.7 per cent of their GNP as ODA to developing countries as reaffirmed at the International Conference on Financing for Development, and effectively implement their commitment on ODA to the least developed countries as contained in paragraph 83 of the programme of action for LDCs for the decade 2001-2010. We further urge developed countries to make available the increased ODA commitment announced at the International Conference of Financing for Development and reaffirmed at the World Summit for Sustainable Development to the implementation of sustainable development objectives as set out in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation.

21. We express regret that despite several initiatives undertaken over the past decade by the international community, the debt crisis persists as one of the main constraints for the development of developing countries, including middle-income countries. We reiterate the urgent need for the international community, particularly the developed donor countries and international financial institutions to adopt an effective, comprehensive and equitable, once-and-for-all development-oriented and durable solution to the debt problems of developing countries, including debt cancellation and increased concessional financial flows for all developing countries, as well as through debt for sustainable development swaps. In this regard, we welcome the decision reached in Monterrey for future determinations of debt sustainability to also include consideration of a country's ability to achieve the Millennium Development Goals.

V. Trade and development

22. Trade is one of the most important sources to foster development. A universal, rule-based, open, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system, as well as meaningful trade liberalization, can substantially stimulate development worldwide. Therefore it is essential to place the needs and interests of developing countries at the heart of the WTO agenda and facilitate the accession of developing countries to the WTO on fair and reasonable terms, taking into account the particularities of each country. We stress the importance of enhanced and predictable market access for products of export interest of developing countries, through tariff reductions, the removal of tariff peaks and escalations and the elimination of trade-distorting policies, protectionist practices, non-tariff barriers and agricultural subsidies. We also express concern over the high incidence of anti-dumping measures and reiterate that they should not be used for protectionist purposes.

23. We call for the full and faithful implementation of the Uruguay Round Agreements and emphasize the need to address expeditiously the implementation issues and concerns of developing countries. Regarding the implementation of existing WTO agreements and decisions, we emphasize the need to address in particular the difficulties and resource constraints that developing countries face in fulfilling their obligations under those agreements and decisions. We further call for the strengthening of the special and differential provisions in favour of the developing countries to make them more precise, effective and operational. We also call for the review of the Trade-Related Investment Measures (TRIMS) and Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) agreements from a development dimension with a view to minimizing any negative aspects of these agreements on the development of developing countries.

24. We further reiterate the important role that UNCTAD has to play in helping developing countries to integrate into the world economy in areas of special interest such as investment, enterprise development and technology, trade, in goods and services, commodities and services infrastructure for development and trade efficiency. In this regard, we call for taking concrete steps to strengthen UNCTAD and its capacity to assist developing countries in trade and development-related issues, including through the provision of new and additional resources, and in the implementation of the Doha work programme.

VI. Operational activities for development

25. We underscore the importance of the role of the United Nations in Operational Activities for Development. We call on all developing countries to effectively participate in the work of Executive Boards of the United Nations Funds and Programmes. We stress the need to ensure that the funding for operational activities for development is placed on a

predictable, assured and continued basis, commensurate with the increasing needs of developing countries including through channeling a portion of the ODA pledged in Monterrey for the operational activities of the United Nations. In this regard, we express concern at the withholding by one major donor of their contribution to the core resources of UNFPA. We reiterate that the reforms of the United Nations, and decisions taken by the United Nations funds and programmes, including in the context of funding strategies, must safeguard the essential characteristics of United Nations operational activities, which are universality, neutrality, impartiality, multilateralism, voluntary and grant nature, and responding to the needs of developing countries in a flexible manner. In this context, we reiterate the role of national governments in establishing the priorities in their respective countries as well as their central coordinating role. While noting the efforts of the Funds and Programmes to generate extra resources from the donor community, we stress that such resources can only complement the centrality of core resources provided by donor countries. Furthermore, such resources should be mobilized in accordance with the agreed priorities and should not be, in any manner, subject to preconditions which distort the mandates set by the General Assembly and other respective governing bodies. Moreover, we call on agencies, funds and programmes to take effective steps to fully utilize the South-South modality within their programmes of assistance. We also urge them to increase the procurement of goods and services from the developing countries.

VII. Situation in Palestine and the Middle East

26. We remain gravely concerned over the tragic and dangerous situation in the occupied Palestine territory, including Jerusalem, which has resulted in the grave deterioration of the economic and social conditions of the Palestinian people, and has negatively affected stability and development in the region as a whole. We call for the immediate and complete cessation and end to settlement activities in the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan an end to the recent Israeli occupation and siege of Palestinian cities, towns and villages, which are in violation of international law, relevant United Nations resolutions and the Fourth Geneva Convention of 12 August 1949, and all forms of collective punishment against the Palestinian people, as well as the return to the negotiation table. We also call for the immediate Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, and from the occupied Syrian Golan to the line of 4 June 1967, and from all the other Arab occupied territories. We reaffirm our support to the Palestinian people in their effort to achieve their inalienable rights, including their right to establish an independent state on their national soil, including Jerusalem. We also call for an end to Israeli violations of Lebanese sovereignty and territorial integrity.

27. We reaffirm our support for the Middle East peace process started in Madrid in 1991, and aimed at achieving a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the region, in accordance with Security Council resolutions 242 (1967), 338 (1973) and 425 (1978) and the principle of land for peace. In this context, we support the peace initiative adopted by the Arab Summit in Beirut in March 2002.

VIII. The New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD)

28. We welcome and fully support the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) adopted by the Organization of African Unity (OAU) in Lusaka in July 2001 which is a holistic and integrated development initiative for the economic and social regeneration of Africa.

29. We stress the urgent need to follow through on the declarations of support from the United Nations, the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, the European Union and the G-8, to assist Africa to implement NEPAD.

30. We welcome the adoption of the UN Declaration on the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) by the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on 16 September 2002.

IX. South-South cooperation

31. We recognize the increased relevance and importance of South-South cooperation in the current international economic climate. We, therefore, reiterate our support for South-South cooperation both as a strategy in support of the development efforts of the developing countries and as a means of enhancing participation of developing countries in the emerging global economy.

32. We invite the Administrator of the UNDP and the Executive Board to strengthen the TCDC Unit as the United Nations focal point for South-South cooperation through the preservation of this separate identify and the provision of adequate resources to ensure the full implementation of decisions of the South Summit under the sphere of competence and to enable it to carry out its relevant mandates and responsibilities.

33. We reiterate our strong commitment to fully implementing the outcome of the South Summit held in Havana, Cuba, from 10 to 14 April 2000. Regarding the status of the implementation process of the South Summit outcome, we reiterate our firm commitment to speed up the implementation process in the sphere of competence of each chapter. We welcome the progress made so far in the implementation process despite lack of resources and call upon member States to contribute generously to the special fund established in accordance with the provisions of the Havana Programme of Action in order to facilitate the implementation process.

34. We reaffirm the importance of the implementation of the Havana Programme of Action and follow-up of the South Summit and, in this context, reiterate that the ad hoc open-ended working group establish during its twenty-fourth annual meeting should continue to function as a mechanism of regular reviewing and monitoring of the overall process. In this regard, we reiterate the need to effectively and speedily revitalize the work of this group.

35. We reiterate our firm commitment to further strengthening South-South cooperation, taking into account the proposals set out in the Havana Programme of Action. As stressed by the South Summit, South-South cooperation is increasingly important, both as a strategy in support of development and as a means of ensuring the effective participation of developing countries in the emerging global economic order. We believe that there is a need to consolidate ongoing efforts, to further increase resources, and to identify priority areas for South-South cooperation, especially in the field of regional and sub-regional economic cooperation, including inter alia the implementation of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation. These priority areas should be included in the cooperation among developing countries to enhance their understanding of complex global economic, environmental and social issues and to formulate joint strategies. We are very confident that the 11th session of the Intergovernmental Follow-up and Coordination Committee on ECDC (IFCC-XI) to be held in 2003 in Caracas will be a major event and an excellent opportunity to establish those priority areas for South-South cooperation as well as to reassert developing countries' solidarity and their desire and ability to act together.

36. We stress the importance to developing countries of access to science and technology in order to promote their economic growth and sustainable development. We, therefore, underscore the need for developing countries to participate in, benefit from, and contribute to, the rapid advances in science and technology, including in the area of environmentally sound technologies, new and emerging technologies, including biotechnology, information and communication technology (ICT) and safe drinking water technologies. In this context, we welcome the generous offer made by the United Arab Emirates to host the South-South High-level Conference on Science and Technology in Dubai from 27 to 30 October 2002 in accordance with the Havana Programme of Action, and we call on developing countries to participate actively at this Conference in order to formulate a South-South platform for the promotion of science and technology in the South.

37. We stress the crucial importance of the Global System of Trade Preferences among Developing Countries (GSTP) as an instrument for promoting South-South cooperation and trade in this context. We recall the decision of the Havana Summit to consider further deepening and expansion of the GSTP in order to enhance its effectiveness, as well as to review the implementation and the performance and impact of the Global System of Trade Preferences (GSTP) among developing countries. We request UNCTAD to continue its support for the operations of the GSTP Agreements.

38. We approve the Financial Statement of the ECDC Account of the Group of 77 (G-77/AM(XIV)/2002/4). We express concern over the precarious financial situation of the ECDC Account and the fact that since the Havana Summit only 26 countries have paid their contributions in full. In this context, we appeal to all member States of the Group of 77 to contribute generously to the ECDC Account as decided by the South Summit in order to support the implementation of the annual programme of work of the Group of 77 and to ensure continuity of the smooth functioning of the Office of the Chairman.

39. We approve the report of the Seventeenth Meeting of the Committee of Experts of the Perez-Guerrero Trust Fund (PGTF) (G-77/AM(XIV)/2002/2), which was presented in accordance with the guidelines for the utilization of PGTF. We note with satisfaction the progress made so far by the PGTF in support of South-South cooperation projects and call upon all members of the Group of 77 as well as the United Nations system to support the expansion of resources of the Trust Fund. We commend the Chairman of the Committee of Experts for his continued commitment and leadership in the Fund's activities.

X. Other major issues and developments

40. We welcome the proposal for the establishment of an international humanitarian fund, mindful of the ideas expressed on the issue during the International Conference on Financing for Development and at the World Summit for Sustainable Development.

41. We recall that HIV/AIDS is a major challenge for developing countries. We believe that the response to the epidemic should be based on an integrated approach of prevention and treatment policies. We urge the international community to contribute new and additional resources to initiatives in the area of health, including the Global Fund to Fight HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. Efforts should also be carried out to provide access to and affordability of medicines including anti-retroviral drugs in line with the Declaration on the TRIPS Agreement and public health, adopted at the Fourth WTO Ministerial Conference, held in Doha.

42. We firmly reject the imposition of laws and regulations with extraterritorial impact and all other forms of coercive economic measures, including unilateral sanctions against developing countries, and reiterate the urgent need to eliminate them immediately. We emphasize that such actions not only undermine the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and international law, but also severely threaten the freedom of trade and investment. We, therefore, call on the international community neither to recognize these measures nor apply them.

43. We express our grave concern over the impact of economic sanctions on the civilian population and development capacity in targeted countries, and therefore urge the international community to exhaust all peaceful methods before resorting to sanctions, which should only be considered as a last resort. If necessary, these sanctions must be established only in strict conformity with the Charter of the United Nations with clear objectives, a clear time frame, provisions for regular review, precise conditions for their lifting and never be used as a form of punishment or otherwise to exact retribution.

44. We call upon the international community to minimize the adverse effects of United Nations economic sanctions on third parties. In this regard, we emphasize the responsibility of targeted countries to fully implement the provisions of all relevant Security Council resolutions.

45. We call upon the international community to provide the necessary assistance to landmine clearance operations, as well as to the rehabilitation of the victims and their social and economic integration into the landmine affected countries. We express concern over the residues of the Second World War in particular in the form of landmines which cause human and material damage and obstruct development plans in some developing countries. We demand that the States responsible for laying the mines outside of their territories assume responsibility for the landmines, cooperate with the affected countries to get rid of them and to contribute defraying the cost of clearance and provide compensation for any ensuing losses and for reclaiming the affected

areas for productive purposes. In this context, we express support for the demining assistance in the south of Lebanon.

XI. The financial situation, administrative and budgetary issues of the United Nations

46. We note the improvement in the financial situation of the Organization and express concern that there are still considerable outstanding contributions and arrears.

47. We reaffirm the legal obligation of Member States to bear the expenses of the Organization in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and the requirements to pay their assessed contributions in full and on time and without conditions. While recognizing the need to extend sympathetic understanding to those that are temporarily unable to meet their financial obligations as a consequence of genuine economic difficulties, we urge all others, in particular the major contributor, to pay their assessed contributions unconditionally, in full and on time.

48. We reaffirm that the principle of the "capacity to pay" is the fundamental criterion in the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations. We stress that the special difficulties faced by some developing countries should be fully taken into account and that the decisions of the General Assembly on the agenda item "Scale of assessment" must be responsive to such difficulties. We stand fully committed to support the requests of these developing countries.

49. We encourage the promotion of an intergovernmental dialogue in order to explore measures to improve the financial situation of the Organization that can have a positive impact. In this regard, we stress that any attempt to change the current methodology of calculating the arrears under Article 19 of the Charter that could adversely affect a large number of developing countries, is not desirable and should be discouraged.

50. We express concern that internal cross-borrowing from the peacekeeping budgets to finance the regular budget continues to put undue financial difficulties on the developing countries that provide troops and equipment. We also express concern at the late and irregular reimbursement to developing countries that provide troops and equipment to various active and liquidated peacekeeping operations, which is due to the non-payment of assessed contributions by some Member States.

51. We reaffirm that all mandated programmes and activities of the Organization should be adequately financed in order to ensure its full implementation. In this regard, we expect that in the decisions to be taken during the fifty-seventh session of the General Assembly on the implementation of the regular budget 2002-2003, the outline for the next budget 2004-2005 and other related budgetary issues, the demands and areas of concern of the Group of 77 and China should be adequately and effectively addressed.

52. We express concern at the inadequate share of the developing countries in the United Nations system of procurement. We emphasize that the United Nations procurement should be on as wide a geographical basis as possible with preferential treatment for the developing countries. We further underline that the United Nations supplier roster should be representative of the membership of the Organization.